



Appl. No. : 10/071,877  
Applicant : Robert C. Downs  
Filed : February 8, 2002  
TC/AU. : 1743  
Examiner : Brian J. Sines

Confirmation No. 9765

Docket No. : 36-001810US

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

### APPLICANT'S INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant's summary of the Examiner interview of August 18, 2004, in the above cited matter is provided below.

Claims discussed included independent claims 1, and 85.

Prior art discussed included U.S. Patent No. 5,769,775 to Quinlan, and U.S. Patent No. 6,060,022 to Pang.

It was generally acknowledged that the cited art does not anticipate claim 1 clauses (a) and (b).

The discussion of claim 1 focused on the possibly of limiting "inserting" in clause (c) to expressly require insertion of two or more sample vessels into two or more sample receiving regions. Examiner expressed the view that currently cited art probably does not anticipate claim 1 if it were amended to require the sample vessels to be inserted into two or more sample receiving regions at substantially the same time.

The discussion of claim 85 focused on the effect of adding the term "non-vertical" to the "plurality of clusters" in the second line of the claim.

Examiner Pak indicated he would engage in a new search for art related to any new amended claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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# TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number

10/071,877

Filing Date

February 8, 2002

First Named Inventor

Robert C. Downs

Group Art Unit

1743

Examiner Name

Brian J. Sines

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Attorney Docket Number

36-001810US

**ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)**

- ☒ Fee Transmittal Form  
☐ Fee Attached
- ☒ Amendment / Response  
☐ After Final  
☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☒ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
- ☐ Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

- ☐ Assignment Papers (for an Application)
- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Small Entity Statement
- ☐ Request for Refund

- ☐ After Allowance Communication to Group
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☒ Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below):  
receipt acknowledgment postcard

**Authorization to Charge Deposit Account**

Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0893 for any additional fees associated with this paper or during the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time for consideration of the documents enclosed.

Remarks

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT**Firm  
or  
Individual name

Gary Baker, Reg. No. 41,595, Quine Intellectual Property Law Group, P.C.

Signature

Date

9/3/04

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below

Typed or printed name

Evelyn Gomez

Signature

Date

September 3, 2004